Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Implementation of article VI

Report submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

The present report is prepared in accordance with subparagraph 12 of paragraph 15 in the chapter on article VI of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and deals with measures that have been taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran to implement article VI of the NPT and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

1. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that reporting, as envisaged in step 12 of the 13 practical steps, provides an essential element to ascertain the implementation of obligations assumed under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Islamic Republic of Iran holds the view that the objectivity of our analysis on the progress towards the goal of nuclear disarmament would be best served through adoption of a format properly defining categories of information required within the review strengthening process.

2. One of the important elements of step 12 is that the 2000 Review Conference recalled the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996 in conjunction with the implementation of article VI of the Treaty. As the Court stipulated in its advisory opinion in 1996, "the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law ...", and "there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion, negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control". The Islamic Republic of Iran, emphasizes the importance and validity of the advisory opinion of the Court as a universal disarmament obligation of States parties and non-parties to the NPT, and accordingly believes that, while reporting on the implementation of article VI of the Treaty is important, it shall not substitute for the fulfilment of the obligation of nuclear disarmament under article VI. It is disappointing that 37 years after the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the obligations under article VI have yet to be fulfilled. More than 60 years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the long-lasting threat to human survival from nuclear weapons continues to be the greatest threat to humanity. The international community is gravely concerned with the lack of

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progress in achieving nuclear disarmament. Unfortunately, some 27,000 (or tens of thousands of) nuclear weapons still exist, many on high alert status, long after the end of the cold war.

Iran's approach towards the Non-Proliferation Treaty

3. The Islamic Republic of Iran signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1969 and ratified it in February 1970. In June 1973, in accordance with paragraph 1 of article III of the Treaty, Iran concluded a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Ratification of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons before its entry into force and early conclusion of the safeguards agreement clearly demonstrates our long-standing support and commitment as a non-nuclear-weapon State to this fundamental instrument.

4. In 1974, Iran was the first country in the Middle East region to initiate the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, which was followed vigorously by the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly. The Islamic Republic of Iran actively participated in the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference and joined others in supporting the indefinite extension of the Treaty, with the hope that the agreed package would pave the way for the early and total elimination of nuclear weapons.

5. The Islamic Republic of Iran has fulfilled its obligations under all provisions of the Treaty in the hope of helping the integrity and universality of the NPT regime and achieving its fundamental objectives. Iran's position to denounce the nuclear option, as a matter of principle, and place its peaceful nuclear facilities under the full scope safeguards agreement is a clear manifestation of our commitment to a strong Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Iran considers the acquiring, development and use or threat of use of nuclear weapons inhuman, immoral, and illegal and against its very basic principles. They have no place in Iran's defence doctrine, not only because of our commitment to our contractual obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and our religious orders, but in fact because of a sober strategic calculation: they do not add to Iran's security nor do they help rid the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction, which is in Iran's supreme interests.

6. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that all provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons are of equal importance. Maintaining the balance of the rights and obligations enshrined in the Treaty preserves its integrity, enhances its credibility and encourages the Treaty's universality and full implementation.

7. In accordance with the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, nuclear-weapon States made an unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. The 13 practical steps for the systematic and progressive implementation of article VI of the Treaty, as agreed in the 2000 Review Conference, should be vigorously pursued by nuclear-weapon States. Therefore, no action shall be made by any State, in particular nuclear-weapon States, in contravention of those obligations. Regrettably, the new nuclear doctrine of the United States of America, through development of new types of nuclear weapons, setting rationales for the possible use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States and naming non-nuclear-weapon States as the targets of such new

inhuman weapons, and the recent United Kingdom Trident Project to build a new generation of nuclear armed submarines are all flagrant violations of international law, obligations under article VI of the Treaty and the 1995 decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, as well as the commitments made by the nuclear-weapon States in the 2000 Review Conference. In addition, the United States continuously has refrained from giving positive response to the demand of the international community to start negotiations on the treaty of negative security assurances, and the treaty on nuclear disarmament, and increasingly is devoting billions of dollars for programmes of vertical proliferation of its nuclear arsenals. Furthermore, by continuing the deployment of hundreds of nuclear weapons, planning for deployment of nuclear warheads and defence missile systems in other countries and training the air forces of those countries to deliver those weapons in the framework of military alliances, and by transferring nuclear technology and materials to the non-members of the NPT whose nuclear facilities are operating outside the IAEA full scope safeguards monitoring, the United States is in non-compliance with article I of the Treaty, which stipulates that each nuclear-weapon State Party to the Treaty undertakes not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons, as well as in non-compliance with article VI of the Treaty, which sets out the complete disarmament commitments of the nuclear-weapon States.

Measures taken to implement article VI of the Treaty

8. The Islamic Republic of Iran has actively participated in international efforts to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Initiatives taken towards this noble goal have always enjoyed our full support. In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran sponsored General Assembly resolution 60/72 on follow-up to nuclear disarmament obligations agreed to at the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Iran has also voted in favour of General Assembly resolutions such as resolution 61/97, entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons"; resolution 61/56 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East; resolution 61/57 on the conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; resolution 61/65, entitled "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments"; resolution 59/77 on nuclear disarmament; resolution 61/85 on reducing nuclear danger; resolution 59/81, concerning a fissile material cut-off treaty; resolution 61/103 on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East; resolution 61/104 on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty; and resolution 61/83 on follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*; and other relevant resolutions adopted in the United Nations and other international forums.

9. In line with other members of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Islamic Republic of Iran has in various forums, including the International Court of Justice, made its position clear that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is contrary to international law and is therefore illegal. The Islamic Republic of Iran has continuously supported the resolution adopted annually since 1999, on follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*.

10. Iran fully supports the early establishment of a subsidiary body in the Conference on Disarmament, with a mandate to start negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time limit, including a nuclear weapons convention, as a concrete step for nuclear disarmament.

11. The Islamic Republic of Iran played a prominent role during the negotiations on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, hoping that the conclusion of that Treaty would prevent the qualitative as well as quantitative development of nuclear weapons. The Islamic Republic of Iran as a signatory of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is an active member of the Preparatory Commission and hosts five International Monitoring System stations. The 2000 Conference to review the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons agreed among 13 practical steps to a moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions, pending the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. In this context, the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its serious concern that the United States has decided to accelerate "testing readiness" to enable it to reduce the time needed for resuming underground nuclear tests to 18 months. This will clearly put into question the commitment of the United States to the continuation of its already declared testing moratorium.

12. Owing to the significant role that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones plays in achieving a world entirely free from nuclear weapons, in 1974 Iran initiated the resolution for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Since 1980, this resolution has been adopted annually by consensus in the General Assembly. However, the Zionist regime, confident of the political and military support of the United States through its persistent rejection of accession to any international disarmament instrument, and in particular the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, remains the main obstacle to the establishment of such a zone.